



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. II. NOVEMBER & DECEMBER, 1842. No. 24.

Stated Meeting, Nov. 5.

Present, twenty-seven members.

MR. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From Mr. Clark Hare, acknowledging the honour done him by his election as a member of the Society:—

From M. Quetelet, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels, dated 7th May, 1842, acknowledging the receipt of copies of the Transactions and Proceedings of the Society:—and

From Mr. C. N. Bancker, transmitting to the Society, three works of Mr. George Field, of Isleworth, England, as a donation to the Library.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Reply to Dr. Hare's further Objections relating to Whirlwind Storms, &c. By W. C. Redfield. 8vo. New Haven, 1842.—

From the Author.

Nouveaux Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Bruxelles. Vol. XV. 4to. Brussels, 1842.—*From the Academy.*

Annales de l'Observatoire Royal de Bruxelles, publiées, aux Frais de l'État, par le Directeur, A. Quetelet. Vol. II. 4to. Brussels, 1842.—*From the same.*

Bulletins de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de

- Bruxelles. Année 1842. Vol. IX. Nos. 3, 4, 5 & 6. 8vo. Brussels, 1842.—*From the same.*
- Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. For Aug. Sept. & Oct. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1842.—*From the College.*
- Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. Vol. II. 8vo. Savannah, 1842.—*From the Society.*
- Annales des Mines. Rédigées par les Ingénieurs des Mines. Troisième Série. Vol. XX. 8vo. Paris, 1841.—*From the Engineers of Mines.*
- Journal Asiatique, ou Recueil de Mémoires, etc. etc. Publié par la Société Asiatique. Troisième Série. Vol. XIII. Nos. 73 & 74. 8vo. Paris, 1842.—*From the Society.*
- Mémoires du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. Vol XIV. No. 7. 4to. Paris, 1827.—*From the Professors of the Museum.*
- Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, publiées par les Professeurs-administrateurs de cet Établissement. Vol. I. Parts 2, 3 & 4, 1839, and Vol. II. Parts 1 & 2, 1841. 4to. Paris.—*From the same.*
- The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London. Vol. XI. Part 2. 8vo. London, 1841.—*From the Society.*
- Address to the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. By William Richard Hamilton, F. R. S. &c., President. 8vo. London, 1842.—*From the same.*
- Chromatics; or an Essay on the Analogy and Harmony of Colours. By George Field. 4to. London, 1817.—*From the Author.*
- Chromatography; or a Treatise on Colours and Pigments, and of their Powers in Painting. By George Field. 8vo. London, 1841.—*From the Author.*
- Outlines of Analogical Philosophy: being a Primary View of the Principles, Relations and Purposes of Nature, Science and Art. By George Field. Two volumes. 8vo. London, 1839.—*From the Author.*

The Committee, consisting of Dr. Hays, Mr. T. R. Peale and Mr. Ord, to whom was referred, at the last meeting, the paper of Mr. Lea on new fresh water and land shells, reported in favour of its publication in the Transactions; which was ordered accordingly.

Mr. Ord communicated part of a letter which he had received from a very eminent European naturalist, expressing

the deep interest felt abroad in the researches of the late Antarctic expedition.

The writer had understood, that the gentlemen who composed the corps of scientific explorers had ceased to be in the service of the United States; and he referred in strong language to the wrong which would be done to science, as well as to the parties immediately concerned, if the task of arranging and describing the specimens they had collected, should be assigned to any but themselves. He spoke of the practice of other governments who had directed similar explorations in modern times—of the impossibility of securing exact fidelity and consistency of narrative, where one was appointed to digest the brief and hurried memoranda of another—and of the want of confidence which must always and every where be felt in a scientific account of the labours of naturalists, to which they had not individually contributed their personal recollections, and on their individual responsibility.

Mr. Ord concurred fully in the views of his correspondent. He reminded the Society of the agency which it had exerted, at the instance of a former Secretary of the Navy, in defining the positions and duties of the members of the scientific corps, in preparing the instructions under which they acted, and in digesting the requisitions for their use. He adverted to the fact, that, at the interview of consultation, which took place in the Society's Hall, between the gentlemen of the corps and the Secretary, aided by a commission which he had chosen from among the members of the Society, it was understood on all hands, that the department assigned to each scientific gentleman in the expedition, would be subjected to no other interference or control than what the service might require; and that each would have secured to him, on his return, all the honours which might be earned by his personal toil. Mr. Ord expressed a belief, founded on his recollections of that interview, that these assurances, by satisfying the minds of the members of the corps, had the effect of disembarassing the action of the Secretary from the questions of rank and precedence which had arisen among them; and he regretted that the informal character of the interview had, perhaps, left the circumstances which he mentioned, without a record among the files of the Navy Department.